

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace Figure 1 with the enclosed replacement sheet. As amended, Figure 1 includes the label "Prior Art" as requested by the Examiner to comply with MPEP § 608.02(g). Applicant submits that the replacement drawing is formal.

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of this application and for indicating that claims 2-12 and 15 are allowable.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-21 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 2-21 are now pending in this application. Claims 2 and 9 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 2 and 9.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 2-12 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, base claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2 and 9 have been rewritten into independent form to include limitations of cancelled claim 1. Accordingly, independent claims 2 and 9, as amended, should be allowable. Further, claims 3-8, 10-12 and 15 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 2 and 9 and, thus, should also be allowable.

**Claim Amendments**

Claims 2-21 have been amended by way of this reply to: (i) incorporate limitations of now cancelled claim 1 into independent claims 2 and 9; (ii) address dependency issues resulting from the cancellation of claim 1; (iii) remove all reference numerals; (iv) clarify wording of the originally filed claim limitations; and/or (v) other minor typographical errors. No

new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments is present, for example, in the original claims.

### **Claim Objections**

The claims 1, 6, 9, and 17 were objected to for informalities. Claim 1 has been cancelled, and limitations similar thereto have been incorporated into claims 2 and 9. To the extent that the objection applies to amended claims 2 and 9, the objection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts in the instant Office Action (page 3, section 5) that “the term “bearing” is not clear, because the claim appears to refer to the machine frame or end shield in Figure 2 having radial outlets (4a/4d). The bearing, per se, is denoted (6) in Figure 2.”

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, amended independent claims 2 and 9 recite “a *rear bearing*” which is shown, for example, as rear bearing (4) in Figure 2, and further, support can be found on page 9, paragraph [0032] of the present application. In contrast, the bearing (6) referred to by the Examiner is actually a “*rolling bearing (6)*” as shown on Figure 2 and the accompanying text of the present application. Accordingly, the “rear bearing” as recited in amended independent claim 2 is not the same as the “rolling bearing (6)” shown in Figure 2. Thus, the term “bearing”, cited by the Examiner, is unquestionably a “rear bearing” and is clearly shown in the instant specification.

Additionally, the phrase “longitudinal wall of a passageway” in independent claims 2 and 9, as amended, have been replaced with “a wall for the radial flow passageway” to clarify the limitation. The remaining claims have been amended to correct informalities indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

**Objections to the Drawings**

Figure 1 was objected to as not including the label “Prior Art.” A replacement drawing sheet showing the “Prior Art” label in the amended Figure 1 is included in this reply. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

**Objections to the Title**

The Examiner has indicated that the title is not descriptive. The Applicant has amended the title to clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the phrase “forms a mezzanine” in dependent claim 14 is indefinite because it is not clear what structural features this term imparts to the claim. Claim 14 has been amended by replacing “forms a mezzanine” with the phrase “a planar surface disposed above.” The amended language clearly and positively recites the structural relationship between the heat dissipating bridge and the rear bearing.

Additionally, the Examiner asserts that the phrase “away from the bearing” in dependent claim 18 is vague and indefinite. Claim 18 has been amended to replace “away from” with the phrase “separate from.” The amended language clearly and positively recites the structural relationship between the fins and the rear bearing. Furthermore, the Examiner acknowledges that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action mailed on June 26th, 2006 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action, page 5).

Claim 18 depends from claims 2 and 3 which contain allowable subject matter as noted by the Examiner, and thus should be allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 13-14, 16, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,577,032 (“Irie”) in view of JP Patent No. 60-35944 (“Ishikawa”).

As discussed above, claim 1 has been cancelled, and limitations similar thereto have been incorporated into amended independent claims 2 and 9. With respect to claims 2 and 9, the Examiner acknowledges that claims 2 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (*see* Office Action, July 27, 2006, page 7).

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 2 and 9 are patentable over Irie and Ishikawa, and any combination thereof, for at least the above reason. Further, Applicant submits that claims 13-14, 16, and 19-21 are patentable at least by virtue of dependency on claim 2.

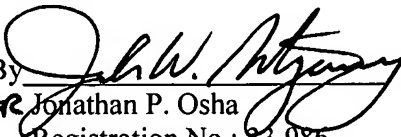
In addition, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Irie and Ishikawa, and further in view of JP Patent No. 4-17551 (“Kawano”). As already explained above, independent claim 2 contains allowable subject matter, and, thus, is allowable over Irie, Ishikawa, Kawano, and any combination thereof, for at least this reason. Further, claim 17 is patentable at least by virtue of dependency on claim 2.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17170/011001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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